

EHH-140-A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ide et al.
Serial Number: Unknown
Filed: Concurrently herewith
Group Art Unit: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown
Confirmation No.: Unknown
Title: GEAR CASE ASSEMBLY WITH PRESSURE-COMPENSATING
FUNCTION FOR MARINE PROPULSION MACHINE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER MPEP §609

Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

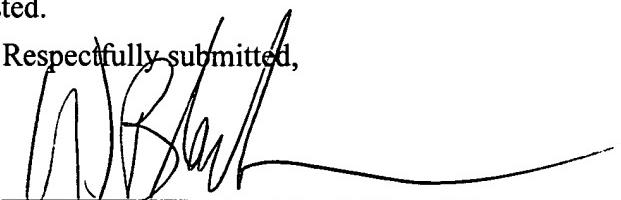
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, §1.97, §1.98, and MPEP §609, applicant encloses a copy of the reference listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A for consideration by the Examiner. The reference is discussed in paragraph [004] of the specification.

The listed reference is being cited only in the interests of candor and without any admission that it constitutes statutory prior art or contains matter which anticipates the present invention or which would render the same obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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16 April 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail Certificate ET986049303US in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner For Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 on 16 April 2004.

Dated: 16 April 2004
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Kathryn MacKenzie

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Ide et al.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

Sheet

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(use as many sheets as necessary)

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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